

Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1 – 16: Cancelled

17. (Currently Amended) A belt shaft retractor having a blocking system that is controlled in a vehicle sensitive and/or belt strap sensitive manner, comprising:

a belt shaft (12);

a tensioning device that acts on the belt shaft (12) and is configured for carrying out a reversible pretensioning of a vehicle occupant;

a carrier shaft having a spiral toothing (19) and that meshes with an external toothing (20) of the belt shaft (12), wherein said spiral toothing is fixedly and non-displaceably disposed on said carrier shaft;

an electric motor (16) as a drive for the tensioning device, wherein said electric motor is adapted to be coupled to said belt shaft (12) via said spiral toothing (19), wherein said electric motor is adapted to act upon the carrier shaft (18), wherein the electric motor (18) is further adapted to rotate the carrier shaft in a first rotation direction during the pretensioning ~~and to prevent a reversal of said first rotation direction of said carrier shaft into a second, opposite rotation direction after completion of said pretensioning,~~ and wherein said spiral toothing (19) and said external toothing (20) when meshed are not self-locking to facilitate rotation of the carrier shaft during pretensioning;

a fixed counter-bearing (23) configured as means to prevent said reversal of said first rotation direction of said carrier shaft, wherein said spiral toothing (19) is supported indirectly against said counter-bearing such that upon an occurrence of an axial loading of said spiral toothing (19) directed toward said counter-bearing (23) due to a load exerted on said belt shaft (12) in a belt withdrawal direction by a

vehicle occupant after completion of pretensioning, a rotation of said spiral toothing is prevented via a supporting force,

~~wherein a first thread of said spiral toothing (19) is in contact with said counter-bearing (23), such that due to a direction of lead of the spiral toothing, a rotation of the spiral toothing (19) in a pretensioning direction is enabled and rotation of the spiral toothing in a direction opposite to said pretensioning direction is prevented by exertion of said load; and~~

a frictional ~~friction-increasing~~ component (25, 26, 28, 29, 30) disposed between said counter-bearing (23) and ~~a said~~ first thread of said spiral toothing (19) for increasing a level of friction between said counter-bearing (23) and said first thread of said spiral toothing (19) until said level of friction is sufficient to prevent further movement and rotation of the carrier shaft ~~producing a sufficient level of friction between said counter-bearing (23) and said first thread of said spiral toothing (19), such that upon a reversal in a direction of rotation of said carrier shaft after completion of the pretensioning, further movement and rotation of the spiral toothing and carrier shaft is prevented~~

wherein only the first thread of the spiral toothing (19) on an end of the spiral toothing is in contact with said frictional component and acts in an axial direction against the frictional component to produce an axial component in a rotational force, wherein said axial component counteracts the supporting force as a reaction force,

wherein due to a direction of lead of the spiral toothing, a rotation of the spiral toothing (19) in a pretensioning direction is enabled and rotation of the spiral toothing in a direction opposite to said pretensioning direction is prevented by exertion of said load.

18. (Previously Presented) A safety belt retractor according to claim 17, wherein said spiral toothing (19) is coupled to a drive shaft (34) of said electric motor (16) via a miter-wheel gearing (17).

19. (Previously Presented) A safety belt retractor according to claim 18, wherein said miter-wheel gearing (17) is embodied as a crown wheel gear mechanism (17).

20. (Previously Presented) A safety belt retractor according to claim 18, wherein said spiral toothing (19) is formed on a carrier shaft (18), and wherein said carrier shaft (18) is connected to the miter-wheel gearing (17).

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A safety belt retractor according to claim 17, wherein said ~~frictional~~ ~~friction-increasing~~ component is a spacer disk (25) of a material having a non-linear coefficient of friction, such that as axial forces applied on said spacer disk increase, frictional forces increase exponentially.

23. (Withdrawn) A safety belt retractor according to claim 17, wherein said friction-increasing component is a bearing disk (26) that deforms axially and elastically as load increases.

24. (Withdrawn) A safety belt retractor according to claim 17, wherein a surface of said counter-bearing (23) that faces said spiral toothing (19) is provided with a conical recess (27), and wherein disposed on said carrier shaft (18) is a conical friction body (28) that has a corresponding shape and is made of an elastic material.

25. (Withdrawn) A safety belt retractor according to claim 17, wherein a compression spring (30) is disposed between said counter-bearing (23) and said spiral toothing (19), and wherein said carrier shaft (18) and said counter-bearing (23)

are provided with latching structures (31) that interlock during an axial displacement of said carrier shaft (18).

26. (Withdrawn) A safety belt retractor according to claim 17, wherein said spiral toothing (19) is formed on a carrier shaft (18), and wherein an end face of said carrier shaft is supported against a shank (33) of a drive shaft (34) of said electric motor (16).

27. (Withdrawn) A safety belt retractor according to claim 17, wherein a crown wheel toothing of a crown wheel gear mechanism (17) that is effective between a drive shaft (34) of said electric motor (16) and a carrier shaft (18) on which is formed said spiral toothing (19) has a multi-stage configuration such that during an axial loading of said carrier shaft (18), a transmission of said crown wheel gear mechanism (17) changes.

28. (Previously Presented) A safety belt retractor according to claim 17, wherein said electric motor (16) has a performance range for applying a holding moment to aid in prevention of rotation of said spiral toothing (19).

29. (Previously Presented) A safety belt retractor according to claim 28, wherein said holding moment of said electric motor (16) is adjustable via a motor control as a function of load acting on said belt shaft (12) in a belt withdrawal direction.

30. (Previously Presented) A safety belt retractor according claim 20, wherein said spiral toothing is formed on an end of said carrier shaft (18) opposite said miter-wheel gearing, wherein said carrier shaft is held in a first bearing (21), and wherein in a region between said spiral toothing (19) and said miter-wheel gearing (17) said carrier shaft (18) is mounted in a thrust bearing (22) that is surrounded by said fixed counter-bearing in the form of a bearing housing (23).

31. (Previously Presented) A safety belt retractor according to claim 30, wherein said thrust bearing is embodied as a cup-shaped bearing (22).

32. (Previously Presented) A safety belt retractor according to claim 30, wherein said bearing housing (23) forms said counter-bearing for said spiral toothing (19).